BAY AREA SUASI PROGRAM

marin sonoma napa solano contra costa alameda santa clara santa cruz san mateo san francisco | san jose oakland

Managing the work of the Bay Area SUASI is a dedicated and highly skilled Management Team comprised of a general manager, five project managers and a finance manager.

Laura Phillips – General Manager
Bay Area SUASI Program
Laura Phillips has been appointed by the Bay Area SUASI Approval Authority as General Manager of the Bay Area SUASI Program. As General Manager, Ms. Phillips is responsible for the implementation of Approval Authority policies and goals; determines and develops operational activities including directing the administration and management of all projects; evaluates administrative reports and related documents; and prepares and administers the grants and associated budgetary functions, including analysis and justification to the Approval Authority. She is also responsible for grant compliance activities. She briefs the Approval Authority on special matters and events; liaisons and coordinates with other entities toward project completion; defines and manages the Approval Authority outreach efforts related to public information to accomplish the mission and purpose; and confers with legal counsel, securing legal assistance as needed.
Ms. Phillips has almost thirty years of experience in Public Safety and served as Director of San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management prior to her selection as General Manager of the SUASI Program. She was the Technical Services Manager for the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety for ten years, and has an additional 17 years of combined experience with the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County. Ms. Phillips formerly served as Project Co-Director for the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project and as Chair of its Technical Subcommittee for Radio Interoperability. She has served in leadership roles for various professional organizations, such as the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the Computerized CLETS Users Group (CCUG), and others.

Caryn Thornburg – Project Manager
Medical Surge, Mass Prophylaxis
Caryn Thornburg is responsible for the administration and management of the Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis initiatives. Prior to her appointment as Project Manager, Ms. Thornburg was an active participant in the work groups and RFP processes for the Medical Surge, Mass Prophylaxis, and Mass Care & Shelter initiatives. Most recently ValleyCare Health System's Emergency Management & Hazardous Materials Coordinator, Ms. Thornburg has 30 years of experience in healthcare, logistics, medical planning, and emergency response in both civilian and military arenas. She has trained others in a wide range of topics, including Incident Command Systems (ICS), Weapons of Mass Destruction Responder Operations, Occupational Safety and Health Standards. Retired after 24 years of service with the U.S. Army, Ms. Thornburg is a licensed vocational nurse.

Guy Bernardo – Project Manager
Interoperable Communications, Public Information
Guy Bernardo is responsible for the administration and management of Interoperable Communications and Public Information. A native of the Bay Area, Guy has been a member of the San Jose Police Department for more than 28 years. He has worked a wide range of assignments with a focus on the training and professional development of law enforcement personnel. He was previously assigned to the San Jose Office of Emergency Services as a program manager for the San Jose Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Skip Shervington – Project Manager
Training & Exercise, CBRNE
Skip Shervington is responsible for the administration and management of the Training & Exercise and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) initiatives. Skip joined the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office 22 years ago after serving three years overseas as U.S. Army Military Police Officer. Skip has worked many assignments in his career. His most recent assignment was managing State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) training and exercises within in his operational area.

Rocky Medeiros – Project Manager
Information Sharing, Infrastructure Protection
Rocky Medeiros is responsible for the management and administration of the Information Sharing (TEWG/RTTAC) and Infrastructure Protection initiatives. Rocky Medeiros is a 22 year veteran of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and currently holds the rank of Commander. He has worked a wide variety of assignments during his tenure. Since 1999 these assignments primarily focused on Homeland Security issues as well as emergency response.

William Bass – Project Manager
Citizen Preparedness, Mass Care
William Bass serves as the Project Manager of the Mass Care and Shelter Initiative as well as Citizen Preparedness Initiatives. In this capacity, William oversees the work of a contractor developing a Shelter Toolkit on behalf of the Mass Care and Shelter Workgroup. He also manages and oversees the many works-in-progress related to Citizen Preparedness, including the assessment of citizen preparedness training, regional citizen preparedness initiatives and competitive awards for a wide range of projects throughout the Bay Area. William has been an active participant in the Bay Area SUASI's Volunteer Management System Steering Committee, and was instrumental in the development of HelpBayArea.org. William comes to the Bay Area SUASI from the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) Department of Human Resources, where he managed the Disaster Service Worker Program and recently oversaw the integration of its databases with HelpBayArea.org.

Susan Newton – Manager Finance
Susan Newton has been appointed by the Bay Area Super UASI Approval Authority as the Finance Manager of the SUASI Project. The Finance Manager reports to the General Manager and her responsibilities include preparing and administering project budgets; preparing cost forecasts, variances and critical paths including project closeout procedures; preparing and analyzing comprehensive reports; administering contracts with project participants and service providers; coordinating a variety of projects and activities with agencies from the ten Bay Area counties; analyzing complex administration systems problems, evaluating alternative solutions and proceeding with an effective course of action; communicating effectively and persuasively in both oral and written format.
Susan is a veteran of the UASI grant program. In 2004 and 2005, the City of Oakland was a separate Urban Area and Susan served as the Homeland Security Program Coordinator since the programs' inception. Prior to administering the UASI grants, Susan worked for the Oakland Fire Department as the Assistant Manager for Oakland's Office of Emergency Services. She came to Oakland Fire after spending four years at the Oakland Police Department. Her career in Oakland followed 18 years at the Livermore Police Department where she supervised the Administrative Services Division.